Reply of Government.—A Draft Regulation with Rules thereunder is under consideration and the disposal thereof will be expedited.

EXCISE.

Subject No. 77.
(a) Bagani Shendi.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) The Deputy Commissioner of Kadur has not yet settled the question of bagani toddy. The Malnad raiyats are labouring under great difficulties. Early orders are solicited.

Messrs. Srinivasa Rao and Vasudeva Rao of Chikmagalur represented that *native* planters do not require toddy for making bread, that they had always been drawing it for the use of *Jeetgars*, and that if the rules have been correctly interpreted by Government, they may be modified so as to restore the privilege hitherto enjoyed. They added that a similar privilege should be conceded to Kandayam-paying raiyats also.

2. Messrs. Davaru Sastri, Lakshminarnappa, and Channakesava Rao of the Koppa Taluk said that great restrictions had been imposed on the rights of the Malnad raiyats to the bagani trees on their holdings and requested that these may be withdrawn.

Reply of Government.—The order No. 11897-906—Excise 485 of 20th June 1898, seems sufficiently liberal; but the present representation that "Domestic purpose" should be made to include *Jeetgar's* drink is noted for consideration.

(b) Tree marking in Kans.

Summary of discussion.—(*b*) Tree marking in *Kans* may be discontinued as it leads to loss of Revenue and is attended with inconvenience.

Reply of Government.—Cannot be done.

Subject No. 78.
Tapping of date trees on occupied lands.

Summary of discussion.—When date trees on occupied lands are tapped, a tax of Re. 1-1-0 is levied by Government. The owner of the land generally gets only a few annas. Raiyats are thus not encouraged to plant and cultivate date trees. It is prayed that the owner of the land may be paid Re. 1 for each tree, the cess of one anna going to Government.

Mr. D. Venkatramaiya of Bangalore said that tree-rent had been held in abeyance in Government lands for 3 years. That being so, contractors naturally do not go to occupied lands and pay extra rent to the occupant in addition to Re. 1-1-0, which is all that they have to pay for trees in Government lands. Tree-tax itself is an anomaly and should be abolished. The imposition of a duty of so much per gallon is preferable.

2. Mr. Mallappa of the Local Fund Board, French Rocks, requested that the tax payable by contractors to Government might be reduced, in order that the contractors might pay more to the owners for the trees on their lands.